

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. New claim 21 has been added.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hori (USP 5,847,726) in view of Ogawa (JP 2000-076035A). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Hori fails to teach and/or suggest storing completion time instant of a last printing operation in an ink-jet printer.

Therefore, the Examiner relies on the Ogawa reference and states (in the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action):

Ogawa clearly teaches printer's RAM for storing completion time instant (par. 7-10). In addition, printer's RAM 10 is to hold and store completion time instant (par. 7-10 and par. 20-22). Ogawa also teaches NV-RAM 11 (nonvolatile RAM) which can store data even if when the power is turned off. Therefore, NV-RAM is well known in the art that it can be implemented to store plurality of completion time instants (past completion time and its history or database).

Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming that the Examiner's interpretation of the Ogawa reference is reasonable, which Applicants do not admit, the claimed invention of the present application is different from Hori in view of Ogawa at least for the following reasons.

Ogawa discloses, in Fig. 1, a host machine 3 and a printer 1. As stated in paragraph [0008], the printer 1 receives (current) time information from the host machine 3 when the printer is booted, and measures an actual time by using the received time information and an internal clock of a CPU provided in the printer 1. When a print data is received from the host

machine 3, the printer 1 stores a print data received time, and measures and stores an output completion time calculated based on the measured time by using the internal clock in a RAM. Thereafter, the stored print data received time and the stored output completion time are returned to the host machine 3.

Ogawa also states in paragraph [0004] that an object of the invention is to manage print condition without using an expensive real-time clock. In other words, Ogawa uses an internal clock of a CPU in place of a real-time clock.

Therefore, in Ogawa, the output completion time (corresponds to the “completion time instant” of the present invention) is calculated (or measured) inside the printer by using the internal clock.

In contrast, in the present invention, “the host machine provides the ink-jet printer with current time data, as an updated previously stored completion time instant, when the printing end data is received from the ink-jet printer,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, in the present invention, the printer simply receives current time data from the host machine as the completion time instant and thus the printer does not calculate or measure the completion time instant internally within the printer by using an internal clock of a CPU.

Accordingly, even assuming that Hori and Ogawa can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, Hori in view of Ogawa fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention of the present application.

Claims 2-18, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

New Claim

Claim 21, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

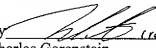
The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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